

Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC)

Rotorcraft Issues

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 1, 2007
Time: 5:00 p.m. EDT
Location: Orange County Convention Center
West Building (Room W221C)
Orlando, Florida

The Assistant Chair, Mr. John Swihart, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All attendees introduced themselves and respectively signed the attendance sheet (Attachment 1). Mr. Scott Horn, the Assistant Executive Director then read the Federal Advisory Commitee Act (FACA) statement, which detailed the conduct of the meeting.

Mr. Swihart referenced this meeting's agenda (Attachment 2), which had been published in the Federal Register on February 6, 2007, and then gave an overview of the meeting's objectives.

Working group presentations and status reports were conducted as described below:

Working Group Status Report

Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure

Mr. Swihart stated that the proposed regulatory package concerning Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure had been mailed out to committee members within the preceding month of this ARAC Rotorcraft Issues Group (RIG) meeting. He stated that it related to a tasking record that was issued on February 28, 2000, which asked for a look into the possibility of rules changes to include revisions to Advisory Circular (AC) material.

He further stated that the working group had completed the assigned tasking, except for the finalization of the associated AC material, which was still awaiting completion of the preliminary legal review. Mr. Swihart said that the AC material would be discussed in a future meeting which would be announced in the Federal Register in advance.

Mr. Swihart then asked Mr. Charles Harrison (FAA) to provide an update on the regulatory package and some insight on the effects of the proposed regulatory package, if and when it becomes adopted.

Mr. Harrison in his brief to the committee gave examples of the differences in the language changes in the proposed new regulatory material versus the old rule. He also stated that much of

the terminology in the original AC material related to Damage Tolerance, but was not consistent with the language in the current rule. Further Mr. Harrison stated the proposed material resolves these differences.

Mr. Harrison stated that he felt the working group had done a great job in producing the new material and that consensus was that the material was ready to be submitted to the FAA. When asked by Mr. Swihart if the working group felt that the proposed preamble language met the required standard for clarity, and if it enhanced the rule language, Mr. Harrison said that that he and the group felt confident that it did.

Mr. Swihart then asked if AC's 27-1, and 29-2, as well as AC 20-107A (Composite Aircraft Structures) were all considered by the working group in their rulemaking efforts. Mr. Harrison responded that those AC's were considered, and AC's 27-1 and 29-2 are being updated. AC 20-107A general material could be accepted in its current form and will not be revised for this effort. Mr. Harrison was supported in this view by Mr. Bob Wardlaw (Bell Helicopter and Working Group Chair) who was in attendance by teleconference.

Mr. Swihart then stated that the forthcoming AC material must relate directly to the proposed regulatory material, and could not add to, or take away anything away from that material. He then asked both Mr. Harrison and Mr. Wardlaw if they felt confident that the proposed regulatory material developed by the working group meets the "minimum standard" statutory requirement. Mr. Harrison responded that he felt the group had done so, to which Mr. Wardlaw agreed.

Mr. Swihart asked the committee if there were any objections from within the voting membership to submitting the proposed regulatory material to the FAA. There were no dissenting opinions, so Mr. Swihart stated that the regulatory material would be submitted to the FAA for rulemaking after review and acceptance of the proposed AC material.

FAA Status Reports

Performance and Handling Qualities Requirements NPRM

Mr. Swihart gave a brief history of the Performance and Handling Qualities Requirements for Rotorcraft rulemaking, stating it had been in existence for over ten years. He asked Mr. Horn to give the FAA status report on that subject in place of Mr. Jeff Trang (FAA), who was originally scheduled to give the update, but could not make it to the meeting.

Mr. Horn stated that he been introduced to this particular rulemaking package originally in January 1994. He said that the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was published in July, 2006 and that the comment period had closed in October 2006. He further stated that three comments had been received, two of which had been determined to be outside the scope of this NPRM. The other comment was found to be within the scope of this rulemaking.

Mr. Horn stated that in keeping with the requirement to publish a final rule within 16 months of

the closing date of the comment period, the final rule in this case, would require publishing by February 2008. He stated that the rule was currently undergoing legal review, and was being coordinated for further action within the FAA. There were no questions for Mr. Horn.

Fatigue Tolerance Evaluation of Metallic Structures proposed NPRM and AC package

Mr. Swihart then stated that Mrs. Sharon Miles (FAA) would provide the FAA status report on Fatigue Tolerance Evaluation of Metallic Structures and its associated AC package. Mrs. Miles stated that this rulemaking package was undergoing internal coordination within the FAA and it was expected that an NPRM would be published possibly sometime in the summer of 2007. There were no questions for Mrs. Miles.

Other Business

Mr. Swihart stated that there was no other business to be conducted at this meeting, but that he expected there would be another meeting in the next few months to discuss AC material associated with Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure.

Mr. Swihart chose this point to discuss another issue related to the Composite Rotorcraft Structures rulemaking. He stated that during the initial stages of that rulemaking project, the Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA) was still in existence, and that there had been participation by the JAA. However, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) had since replaced the JAA, and unlike the JAA, had decided they would not participate in ARAC. Mr. Swihart stated that a copy of the package submitted to the FAA will be sent to EASA for their information..

Future Meetings

Mr. Swihart again stated that there would probably be a meeting with the next few months to discuss the AC materials; he also said that the next regularly scheduled ARAC RIG meeting will take place in Houston, Texas in 2008 during Heli-Expo. He reminded the committee that a notice would be published in the Federal Register well in advance of all RIG meetings, and also that the minutes of this particular meeting would be available on the ARAC website.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Attendance:

Twenty-one people (2 by teleconference), including committee members, alternates, and government employees, attended the March 1, 2007, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee meeting on Rotorcraft Issues.

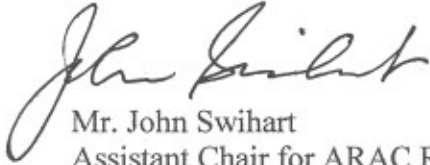
Public Notification

The Federal Register published an announcement of the meeting on February 6, 2007

(72 FR 5487).

Approval

I certify the minutes are accurate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Swihart", is written over the printed name.

Mr. John Swihart
Assistant Chair for ARAC Rotorcraft Issues

Issued: March 26, 2007

Attachments

AVIATION RULEMAKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ROTORCRAFT ISSUES GROUP

Sign-In Sheet

March 1, 2007

NAME	M E M B E R	N O N M E M B E R	ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION	E-Mail Address	Telephone No.	Fax No.
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AGENDA
ARAC RIG Meeting
Orange County Convention Center, West Building
Orlando, Florida
March 1, 2007, 5:00PM, EST

Call to Order	Mr. John Swihart
Self Introduction	All Present
Administrative Guidance	Mr. Scott Horn
Working Group Status Reports:	
Discussion and Approval of Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure (proposed regulatory and advisory circular material package)	Mr. Charles Harrison
FAA Status Report:	
Performance and Handling Qualities Requirements NPRM	Jeff Trang
Fatigue Tolerance Evaluation of Metallic Structures proposed NPRM and AC package	Sharon Miles
Other Business	Mr. John Swihart
Future Meetings	Mr. John Swihart
Adjourn	Mr. John Swihart

Minutes of this meeting will be available on the FAA web site at:
http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/rulemaking/committees/arac/